

MAR 09 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to records stored in a database, said method comprising:

identifying a password that is associated with one or more users of said database;

defining a calculation expression for said identified password, wherein said calculation expression is a variable expression defined based on at least one field of data used in a plurality of records stored in said database, and wherein said calculation expression can be evaluated at least partly based on said at least one field of data used in said plurality of records, wherein said at least one field of data is a variable which may have different values for each of said plurality of records, thereby allowing access to each individual record of various fields of data stored in said plurality of records to be selectively controlled based on at least one value of said at least one field of data stored for each of said plurality of records of said database, and wherein said calculation expression defines access privileges of said one or more users with respect to at least one operation that may be requested to be performed by said one or more users on said plurality of records of said database;

receiving a request to perform said at least one operation on said plurality of records of said database, said request being identified as a request made by said one or more users associated with said password; and

evaluating said calculation expression for ~~said~~ each of said plurality of records, based on said at least one field of data, when said request has been received, wherein said evaluating comprises: (a) determining at least one value for said at least one field of data stored for a first record of said plurality of records, and (b) using said at least one value as input to said calculation

expression to evaluate said calculation expression for said first record, and (c) determining a first result for said calculation expression based on said evaluation of said calculation expression for said first record, wherein said first result effectively indicates whether to grant access to said first record. ~~-, said evaluation returning only one of two possible values for each of said plurality of records, one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation should be granted and another one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation should be denied;~~

~~granting said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns one said possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be granted; and~~

~~denying said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns one said another possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be denied.~~

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said at least one operation can be a browse, an edit, or a delete operation.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said calculation expression is not explicitly defined for said at least one operation but said calculation expression is one that has been defined for another operation which has been considered as a related operation to said at least one operation.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said calculation expression can be evaluated at least partly based on at least one state variable of said database, wherein said state variable can indicate the condition of an element of said database at a particular time.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein said method further comprises:

granting temporary or limited access to said at least one record to allow said evaluating of said calculation expression.

16-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including computer program code for controlling access to records stored in a database, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for identifying a password that is associated with one or more users of said database;

computer program code for defining a calculation expression for said identified password, wherein said calculation expression is a variable expression defined based on at least one field of data used in a plurality of records stored in said database, and wherein said calculation expression can be evaluated at least partly based on said at least one field of data used in said plurality of records, wherein said at least one field of data is a variable which may have different values for each of said plurality of records, thereby allowing selectively controlling access to each individual record of various fields of data stored in said plurality of records to be selectively controlled based on at least one value of said at least one field of data stored for each of said plurality of records of said database, and wherein said calculation expression defines access privileges of said one or more users with respect to at least one operation that may be requested to be performed by said one or more users on said plurality of records of said database;

computer program code for receiving a request to perform said at least one operation on said plurality of records of said database, said request being identified as a request made by said one or more users associated with said password; and

computer program code for evaluating said calculation expression for each of said plurality of records, based on at least one field of data, when said request has been received, wherein said evaluating comprises: (a) determining at least one value for said at least one field of data stored for a first record of said plurality of records, and (b) using said at least one value as input to said calculation expression to evaluate said calculation expression for said first record, and (c) determining a first result for said calculation expression based on said evaluation of said calculation expression for said first record, wherein said first result effectively indicates whether to grant access to said first record, said evaluation returning only one of two possible values for each of said plurality of records, one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation

~~should be granted and another one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation should be denied;~~

~~computer program code for granting said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns one said possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be granted; and~~

~~computer program code for denying said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns one said another possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be denied.~~

39. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 38, wherein said at least one operation can be a browse, an edit, or a delete operation.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 38, wherein said calculation expression is not explicitly defined for said at least one operation but said calculation expression is one that has been defined for another operation which has been considered as a related operation to said at least one operation.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 38, wherein said calculation expression can be evaluated at least partly based on at least one state variable of said database.

42. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 38, further comprising:

computer program code for granting temporary or limited access to said at least one record to allow said evaluating of said calculation expression.

43. (Currently Amended) A database systems ~~system~~ comprising[[:]]:
a database including a plurality of records stored therein;
a database program that can access said database and can be used as an interface to said database, wherein said database program includes a Graphical User Interface which can be used to: define a calculation expression for controlling access to said plurality records in said database, wherein said

calculation expression is a variable expression defined based on at least one field of data used in a plurality of records stored in said database, and wherein said calculation expression can be evaluated at least partly based on said at least one field, wherein said at least one field of data is a variable which may have different values for each of said plurality of records, thereby allowing access to said plurality of records to be selectively determined based on said calculation expression; and

wherein said database program is further capable of:

receiving a request to perform at least one operation on said plurality of records in said database; and

evaluating said calculation expression for each of said plurality of records, wherein said evaluating comprises: (a) determining at least one value for said at least one field of data stored for a first record of said plurality of records, and (b) using said at least one value as input to said calculation expression to evaluate said calculation expression for said first record, and (c) determining a first result for said calculation expression based on said evaluation of said calculation expression for said first record, wherein said first result effectively indicates whether to grant access to said first record, ~~wherein said evaluation returns only one of two possible values for each of said plurality of records, one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation should be granted and another one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation should be denied;~~

~~granting said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns one said possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be granted; and~~

~~denying said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns one said another possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be denied.~~

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A database as recited in claim 43, wherein said at least one operation can be a browse, an edit, or a delete operation.

46. (Previously Presented) A database as recited in claim 43, wherein said calculation expression is not explicitly defined for said at least one operation but said calculation expression is one that has been defined for another operation which has been considered as a related operation to said at least one operation.

47. (Previously Presented) A database as recited in claim 43, wherein said calculation expression can be evaluated at least partly based on at least one state variable of said database.

48-50 (Canceled)

51. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said evaluation can return at least two possible values for each of said plurality of records, one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation should be granted and another one of said possible values indicating that said at least one operation should be denied.

52. (New) A method as recited in claim 51, wherein said method further comprises:

granting said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns one said possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be granted; and

denying said at least one operation to be performed when said evaluation returns said another possible value to indicate that said at least one operation should be denied.

53. (New) A method for selectively controlling access to individual records stored in a database, said method comprising:

defining an expression that can be evaluated for each of a plurality of records stored in a database, wherein said plurality of records of said database includes a first record and a second record;

evaluating said expression for said first record of said plurality of records of said database; and

determining, based on said evaluating of said calculation expression for said first record, whether to grant access to said first record of said plurality of records of said database.

54. (New) A method as recited in claim 53,
wherein said expression is defined based on at least one field of data stored for said first and second record, and
wherein said evaluating of said expression for said first record comprises:
retrieving a first value stored in said first record for said at least one field;
evaluating said expression for said first record based on said first value provided as input to said expression; and
determining a first result based on said evaluating of said expression for said first record, wherein said first result effectively indicates whether to grant access to said first record.

55. (New) A method as recited in claim 54, wherein said method further comprises:
evaluating said expression for said second record of said plurality of records of said database; and
determining, based on said evaluating of said calculation expression for said second record, whether to grant access to said second record of said plurality of records of said database.

56. (New) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein said determining of whether to grant access to said first record determines to grant access to said first record, but said determining of whether to grant access to said second record determines not to grant access to said second record.

57. (New) A method as recited in claim 51, wherein said expression is defined based on data stored in said database.

58. (New) A method as recited in claim 51, wherein said expression is defined based on one or more of the following:

**a field of data stored in said database;
a state variable of said database; and
data stored or referenced by said database.**